

Montpelier
Laurel, MONTGOMERY
Maryland.

HABS No. MD-140

HABS
MD.

M. LAUR.V

1.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Washington D.C.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Delos H. Smith, District Officer
1707 Eye St. N.W., Washington D.C.

Addendum To:
MONTPELIER
(Snowden-Long House,
Thomas Snowden House)
9401 Montpelier Drive
Laurel
Prince Georges County
Maryland

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MD
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1-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

1-

MONTPELIER
(Snowden-Long House, Thomas Snowden House)

HABS NO. MD-140

Location: 9401 Montpelier Drive, Laurel vicinity, Prince George's County, Maryland

Present Owner: Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

Present Occupant: Mr. Don Graham, caretaker and interpreter, occupies the modern wing with his family.

Present Use: The mansion is open to the public for tours and is partially furnished with period furniture and wallpaper, etc. and is also rented out for conferences, weddings, etc.

Significance: Montpelier is a National Historic Landmark as a distinguished example of a late Georgian, five-part plantation house with exceptionally fine interior detailing. Montpelier is also of significance as the primary homeplace of the Snowden family who received the original land grant for this area, first settling here ca. 1690. Through their iron works, and later their textile mills, the Snowden family developed and dominated the local economy for well over a century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Ca. 1783. This date, along with the initials T, A and S, for Thomas & Anne Snowden, appear on the cast-iron firebacks in first-floor southeast and second-floor northeast rooms. It is believed that this was the date that the main block of Montpelier was finally completed. It was originally believed that the house was built ca. 1740. Architectural historians today feel that the Georgian styling and detailing of the house date it to the 1770s or 1780s. The main block was built first, and the wings added later. A log of the materials and cost of construction included in the administration following the death of Thomas Snowden indicate that the wings were added (along with interior finish work in the main block) in 1794-1795.

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2. Architect: The architect for the main block of the house is unknown. At one time it was believed that the wings and interior detailing were added by William Buckland, the English-born and trained architect of colonial Virginia and Maryland. The primary basis for this belief is that the exquisite detailing of the interior trim, and the five-part Georgian plan, are like that only Buckland produced during the time (Buckland was said to have been one of the introducers of the five-part-plan into America). Thus, Montpelier's plan and detailing can be compared with that of the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis (1773-74). It was also originally thought that the wings were earlier than is now believed. Evidence now suggests that the wings were undertaken about twenty years after Buckland's death. Likewise, the main block was probably built after Buckland's death.

3. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1770 Will
Thomas Snowden
To
Thomas Snowden, Jr. (Major Thomas Snowden), son
- 1803 Will, Administration 1810
Thomas Snowden, Jr.
To
"... I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife, the place whereon I now reside, it being part of 'New Birmingham Manor' and containing five hundred and four acres of land.... to my son, Nicholas Snowden 'New Birmingham Manor' not herein disposed..."
- 1831 Will
Nicholas Snowden
To
Elizabeth Snowden, widow; Anne E. Hall, Thomas J., Louisa Capron, Julianna, Adeline, Edward, DeWilton, Henry, Eliza, Emily, Nicholas and Aruthur Snowden, Children and heirs at law.
(includes extensive acreage in Prince Georges, Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties)
- 1836 Equity #911, Chancery- March Term 1836
Elizabeth Snowden, Anne E. Hall, Horace Capron

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and Louisa Capron, his wife
vs.

Theodore Jenkins and Julianna Jenkins, his
Wife; Adeline, Edward, Dewilton, Henry Emily,
Nicholas, Arthur and Eliza Snowden.

Petition to divide, sell and otherwise
distribute equally the real property of
Nicholas Snowden, deceased among the heirs.

"... it is further adjudged ordered and decreed
that the defendants Theodore Jenkins and
Julianna, his wife, in right of the said
Julianna, shall hold in severalty and not
jointly or in common with the other parties to
this suit (but subject in part to the dower of
the complainant, Elizabeth Snowden...) all that
part of the aforesaid real estate... Lot No.
1, being a part of "Snowdens New Birmingham
Manor".... 220 acres (including the dwelling
house- Montpelier).

- 1883 Will, WJA Jr. 1:360 (signed 9 November 1882)
Julianna M. Jenkins
To
Elizabeth S. Jenkins and Mary E. Jenkins,
daughters; with son, Arthur S. Jenkins
280 acres
- 1888 Deed, JWB 11:178, 12 January 1888
Elizabeth S. Jenkins, Mary Eliza Jenkins and
Arthur J. Jenkins
To
William P. Davis, now residing in Prince
Georges County; and Charles R. Dixon of
Wisconsin.
"Being the same which was devised to the said
parties of the first part by Julianna M.
Jenkins by her Last Will and Testament.... part
of 'Snowden's New Birmingham Manor' which was
divided among the children and heirs of the
late, Nicholas Snowden.... being that allotted
to Julianna M. Jenkins.... 'Montpelier' 200
acres.... \$6,000."
- 1891 Deed JWB 22:443, 9 December 1891
William P. Davis and Isabella Davis, his wife
of Prince Georges County

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- To
Sarah D. Chollar, now residing in said county
(Prince Georges)
"Montpelier," 220 acres, \$8,250.
- 1894 Deed JWB 26:683, 27 February 1894
Sarah D. Chollar and Martin W. Chollar, her
husband, of Prince Georges County
To
Josephine D. Taylor, of New York City, New York
"The farm or plantation known as Montpelier,"
220 acres, (\$4,000 and subject to prior
Mortgage from Sarah and Martin Chollar for
\$8,000).
- 1896 Deed JWB 38:696, 5 December 1896
Josephine D. Taylor, widow of New York City,
New York
To
Louis H. Blakeman, of New York City, New York
"All that Farm or Plantation Known as
Montpelier" 220 acres..."Being Lot No. 1
allotted to Julianna Jenkins...
- 1901 Deed 2:597, 8 July 1901 (also Deed 5:98 from
Eleanor L. Blakeman, widow to Pendleton, 15
July 1901, Montpelier)
William M. Spackman and William T. Schley of
New York City, New York, executors of the Last
Will and Testament of Louis Henry Blakeman, of
the same (deceased 1899)
To
Edmund H. Pendleton of Maine
"Montpelier," 220 acres, \$15,000.
- 1910 Administration #2425, Will signed October 1899
Edmund H. Pendleton, of Eden, Bar Harbor, Maine
(Departed his life in the city of Washington,
D.C., on 14 March 1910)
To
Margaret Riviere Pendleton, wife, and William
L. Pendleton, son (of the same)
Rest and residue of property (because Pendleton
purchased Montpelier after the date of the
will, Montpelier was not named specifically)
- 1912 Deed 83:40, 1 June 1912

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Margaret R. Pendleton of Bar Harbor, Maine,
temporarily residing in the city of Washington
To

Mary H. Von Shrader, of St. Louis, Mo.
220 acres being Lot No. 1 in the division of
the real estate of Nicholas Snowden... allotted
to Theodore and Julianna Jenkins....

- 1916 Deed 109:452, 3 January 1916
Mary H. Von Schrader Otto Von Schrader, her
husband, of St. Louis, Mo.
To
Walter R. Tuckerman
220 acres... being 83:40
- 1916 Deed 109:453, 3 January 1916
Walter R. Tuckerman
To
Emmanuel Havenith and Helen F. Havenith, his
wife
220 acres
- 1917 Deed 129:169, 30 November 1917
Emmanuel Havenith
To
Mrs. Martha Sharpe Tucker, of Rockbridge
County, Virginia
Three tracts, 220 acres, 129-1/2 acres and 6/10
acres
- 1918 Deed 128:325, 20 August 1918
Mrs. Martha Sharpe Tucker and Harry St. George
Tucker, her husband of Lexington, Virginia
To
Eleanor Fitzgibbon
Three tracts, 220 acres, 129-1/2 & 6/10 acres
- 1923 Equity #6059
Arthur Peter and Fred B. Rhodes, trustees under
a deed of trust from said Fitzgibbon, plaintiff
vs.
Eleanor Fitzgibbon, defendant
- 1924 Tax Deed 207:200, 15 February 1924
Herman E. Burgess, Treasurer of Prince Georges
County, Maryland
To

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Arthur Peter and Fred B. Rhodes, trustees in
Equity #6059

Whereasthe county commissioners of Prince
Georges County became the purchaser of 350
acres.... composed of three separate
parcels.... assessed in the name of Eleanor
Fitzgibbon." Redeemed for the unpaid tax of
\$1,536.01.

- 1924 Mortgage 220:187, 8 September 1924
Arthur Peter and Fred B. Rhodes, trustees
To
Helen M. Noles of Bradford, Pennsylvania
(Property sold to Helen Noles, a cousin of Ms.
Fitzgibbon- although Ms. Fitzgibbon continues
to maintain and act as owner of property).
Whereas Helen M. Noles... did on the 24th of
November 1923 purchase from Arthur Peter and
Fred B. Rhodes, trustees, the herein described
property....\$31,000. Three tracts, 220 acres,
129-1/2 acres and 6/10 acres.
- 1926 Equity #6543
H. Worthington Hilleary and Malcolm McConihe,
trustees
vs.
Eleanor Fitzgibbon
(decision of the court filed 6 October 1927,
property ordered sold)
- 1928 Deed 315:183, 22 March 1928
H. Worthington Hilleary and Malcolm McConihe,
trustees for Eleanor Fitzgibbon
To
Breckinridge Long
Whereas a public sale was made.... by the
parties of the first part in pursuance of
special power and authority vested in them as
trustees and by a certain deed of trust to them
by Emmanuel and Helen Havenith (and assumed by
Martha S. Tucker, and subsequently by Eleanor
Fitzgibbon); \$80,000 for the three tracts, 220
acres, 129-1/2 and 6/10 acres.
- 1958 Administration #12644 (died 26 September 1958)
Executor of the estate of Breckinridge Long
To

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Christine Willcox, daughter

1961 Deed 2633:599, 28 December 1961
Arnold A. Willcox and Christine Willcox. known
of record as Christine B. Long
To
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning
Commission
(first of a series of deeds, agreements; also
see Lease 2633:602 which spells out the
responsibilities and intent of the M-NCPPC in
acquiring Montpelier)

4. Original plans and construction: The original Montpelier house consisted of the main block only, to which were later added the hyphens and wings. This is evident from the obvious change in the brickwork of the main block which is laid in Flemish bond, to the wings which are laid in English bond.

5. Alterations and additions: The connecting hyphens and wings were added by Major Thomas Snowden 1794-1795, according to Snowden's accounts of supplies purchased for that purpose (included in the administration of his estate in 1803). At this time, elaborate Georgian detailing was added to the interior as well (one tradition states that this is the work of architect, William Buckland and another, that Thomas Snowden personally carved the ornament in the southeast drawing room). Another major addition was made between 1916-1918, adding a new kitchen and servants quarters (the current caretakers wing) to the rear or carriage front of the easterly wing. A garage structure was also built at this time, all during the ownership of Emmanuel Havenith. Then, during the late 1920s the Longs renovated the interior of the wings, adding Colonial Revival detailing. The northwest room was divided into a "writing room" and half-bath, and the northerly wing, formerly a storeroom, was converted into the library (Brown, p. 41).

B. Historical Context:

Montpelier is by far the grandest of the many Snowden family homesteads built in the Laurel area from the time of the first Snowden settler, ca. 1690, to the late-18th century. A wealthy, Quaker family, they developed and

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dominated the local economy for over a century. Richard Snowden, later referred to as "Richard the immigrant," came from Birmingham, England, to Maryland ca. 1658. He later received grants of land in this area, settling on a portion of it (located in the current Howard County) ca. 1690. His residence was known as "Birmingham Manor" for his original home. Upon his death, the Birmingham Manor property passed on to his son, Richard Snowden II, also known as Captain Richard Snowden. Richard continued to increase the family landholdings here until they totalled approximately 27,000 acres spanning Prince Georges, Montgomery, Anne Arundel and Howard counties. It was Richard II that started the Snowden or Patuxent Iron Works in 1735, was the first iron works in the state. His property upon his death was passed on to his son, Richard III, often referred to as the "Iron Master." From him, that portion of the extensive Snowden family holdings on which Montpelier was to be erected passed onto one of his sons, Thomas.

Thomas Snowden I (1722-1770) was, for many years, credited with the construction of Montpelier, originally believed to have been erected ca. 1740. However, architectural historians now believe that, based on the style and detailing of the house, it was built between 1770-1785. The two firebacks in the house give the date of 1783, which may have been the official year of completion of the main block of the house. The hyphenated wings were added later, in 1794-1795.

The main block of Montpelier is a classic Georgian form, displaying all the symmetry and detailing of the early period. To this was added the hyphenated wings, creating a five-part plan, palladian plan. The five-part plan (especially with the polygonal bays) was a later Georgian feature, rarely seen before the American Revolution. This final structure represents one of a handful of grand, high-style five-part Georgian homes built by the wealthy planter and merchant class in Maryland and Virginia between 1765 and the time of the American Revolution.

This addition and the fine interior detailing of Montpelier were credited as the work of William Buckland, an English-born and trained architect who came to America in 1755 to complete George Mason's home, Gunston Hall. He came to Annapolis in 1771 where he is credited for the

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finish work or joinery of Whitehall, Tulip Hill, Chase-Lloyd and Hammond-Harwood houses. Buckland's unmistakable styling and rare knowledge of the latest English styles (Georgian, Palladian-influenced, Adamesque) clearly identify his work. This is why, although formal documentation has not been found, Buckland has been credited with the hyphenated wings and interior detailing of Montpelier, equalled only in residences such as the Hammond-Harwood house. However, the accounts for the construction of the wings dates them to 1794-1795, twenty years after Buckland's untimely death. In addition, by the 1790's others would have been adopting the latest English styles which Buckland introduced in the late-1760s to early-1770s.

Among the papers in the Administration (#1810) of Thomas Snowden's estate is a lengthy inventory of all the materials of construction, "to the amount of the main building (\$457.44)... the kitchen and entrie (\$206.12)... the second wing and entrie (\$235.42)..." There was also mention of materials for the garden house (framing and weatherboarding, windows, door, shingles, cornice board); stable, carriage house, tobacco house, overseer's house and cedar posts and gates for the garden. These records are dated yearly beginning the 1794 and ending with 1796. Thus, it can be assumed that the interior finish of the main block or "main building," and the wings and their connecting hyphen or "entrie" as well as the garden house, fencing and other outbuildings were constructed between 1794-1796.

Major Thomas Snowden married Ann Ridgely, daughter of a wealthy Anne Arundel County family. It has been suggested that their combined wealth paid for the elaborate construction of Montpelier following Major Thomas Snowden's inheritance in 1770. A fireback, undoubtedly from the Snowden Iron Works, which appears in two rooms, gives the initials T A S (Thomas & Ann Snowden) and the date, 1783-- presumably the completion date. His non-Quaker marriage may also help explain the elaborate ornament of the house, a contradiction to Quaker tenets. Supposedly, their wedding was so elaborate that he was temporarily refused admission to the Quaker meeting; although his military rank also suggests that he did not adhere rigidly to his religion. The plantation was said to have been named for Ann Snowden's home. Among the distinguished guests of

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Montpelier were George Washington in May of 1787, en route to Philadelphia to attend the Constitutional Convention, and on his return trip in September; Martha Washington in 1789 on her way to New York to attend her husband's inauguration; and Abigail Adams, who stayed here in 1800 on her way to join President Adams in Washington.

Thomas died in 1803 and Montpelier passed to his wife (who continued to live here until her death) and later to their son, Nicholas, who had, by Thomas' will, received the remainder of the Montpelier tract (New Birmingham Manor). The administration of Thomas Snowden's estate paints a picture of a wealthy, landed gentleman farmer. His estate included hundreds of acres in three counties. His Prince Georges County plantations required the work of 141 slaves or "negroes" (listed in the inventory). The account of plantation produce on hand at the time of his death included 50,000 pounds of tobacco, 780 bushels of Indian corn and hundreds more bushels of oats, wheat, rie (sic.) and straw. Among the livestock were 163 head of black cattle, 378 sows and 77 hogs, 164 sheep and 64 horses. Virtually self-sufficient, the estate also included blacksmith and carpenter's tools, surveyor's instruments, and 270 yards of cotton cloth "from the loom."

Nicholas Snowden, in addition to his interest in the Snowden Iron Works, was also responsible for the construction of a grist mill in 1811, the largest in the county and the only impact of the Industrial Revolution on the landscape of the county. This was converted into a textile mill in 1824. Nicholas died in 1831, but by 1840 growth around the mill (attributed in part to the coming of the B&O Railroad) created the beginnings of the town of Laurel, Prince George's only industrial-based city. The estate following the death of Nicholas, although not as extensive as his fathers, included an inventory of sixty-eight "negroes" and crops "growing" or "on the ground" of tobacco, corn, oats and potatoes. The inventory of his personal estate is an extensive list of fine furniture, and china, glassware and silver, reflecting the country home of extreme wealth.

After his death, his extensive landholdings became the property of his widow, Elizabeth, and their children Anne E. Hall, Thomas J. (deceased), Louisa Capron, Julianna, Adeline, Edward, De Wilton, Henry, Eliza, Emily, Nicholas

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and Arthur Snowden. In 1836 an equity case was filed (#911 Chancery March Term), with Elizabeth Snowden, Anne E. Hall and Louisa Capron and her husband, Horace, as complainants vs. Julianna and her husband (as of that year), Theodore Jenkins, and those of the heirs under age. The purpose of the complaint was to equitably subdivide the "dwelling plantation" and to sell and distribute the proceeds of other landholdings. Snowden's holdings consisted of well over 4,000 acres in Prince Georges, Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties, as well as property in the City of Washington. Thus, each of the eleven children received a tract of land of approximately 400 acres, with the exception of Julianna who received Lot No. 1 on which rested the mansion (all Lots were subject the dower rights of the widow, Elizabeth).

Thus, in 1835 Montpelier became the property of his daughter, Julianna, who had married a Baltimore doctor, Theodore Jenkins, that same year. After Dr. Jenkins' death in 1866, Julianna continued to manage the plantation, residing here until her death in 1883. Upon her death, Julianna willed Montpelier to her two unmarried daughters, Elizabeth and Mary, and their younger brother, Arthur (son Francis received a separate tract). Recognizing the status of women in her day, her will specifically stated that Arthur not be allowed to sell or otherwise distribute the property without the consent of his sisters (Will WAJ Jr 1:360). These heirs, the last of the Snowden family to own Montpelier, sold it just a few years later, in January of 1888 (Deed JWB 11:178).

Montpelier passed through a number of hands during the late-19th and early 20th century. It was owned by William P. & Isabella Davis (1888-91) and Sarah D. and Martin Chollar (1891-94), of Prince Georges County. Montpelier then may have served as a second home for its next two owners were from New York City (as cited on the deed at the time of purchase and sale), Josephine Taylor from February 1894 through December 1896, and then by Louis Blakeman, from 1894 until 1901. It was then purchased by Edmund Pendleton, an author, and his wife whose primary residence was in Bar Harbor, Maine. They, however, divided their time between Maine, Montpelier and Washington, D.C. Mr. Pendleton passed away while in Washington in 1910. Among its many owners was Emmanuel Havenith, a minister to the United States from Belgium,

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who added the kitchen and servants wing during his ownership from 1916 to 1918. Mr. Havenith, as stated in a letter written by Eleanor Fitzgibbon, had the interior plasterwork done in the dining room and library (presumably the wings) at a cost of \$10,000 (letter to prospective buyer, John J. Chapman dated 16 February 1926, an exhibit in Equity #6543).

Montpelier was then purchased by Miss Eleanor Fitzgibbon of Mt. Kisco, New York. She operated a dairy farm here, known as "Montpelier Manor Farms," and imported "Sybils Gamboe" and "Raleigh" bloodline cattle. Although the Haveniths had made additions and repairs to the house, they had neglected the property. According to Miss Fitzgibbon in her letter of February 1926, "...in 1918.... the place was little better than a wilderness. There were no buildings except the house, and only about ten acres of tillable land, the balance of the farm would have put Brer Rabbit's briar patch to shame, and the beautiful house was like a pearl in a pigsty in such a setting." Miss Fitzgibbon added outbuildings including an architect-designed barn, located on the site of the original barn, and put into cultivation 120 acres (Fitzgibbon letter, 1926). Despite her hard work, Miss Fitzgibbon went into default and more than once the property went to equity. Monies from various relatives kept the farm afloat for many years. However, it was eventually transferred to trustees for sale. A notice for its sale which appeared in the Laurel Leader gave the following description: "The property is one of the finest country seats in Maryland, located near Contee Station.... and situated on the Patuxent River. Improvements consist of a magnificent old Colonial brick residence, containing many rooms, a fine new stable suitable for cows and other buildings. Property has been used as a dairy farm and is in a high state of cultivation" (Equity #6059).

For many years Montpelier was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Breckinridge Long who purchased the property from the trustees in 1928. Mr. Long was a diplomat who served as assistant secretary of state under Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt. A porch which extended the length of the facade (probably added by Fitzgibbon) was removed. After the death of the Longs in 1958, Montpelier passed on to their daughter, Mrs. Christine Willcox of Chevy Chase. The house then stood empty.

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Wishing to preserve it, however, the Willcoxes made possible its conveyance to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission in December of 1961. Montpelier is now being used as a house museum and conference center, with an on-site caretaker, and is rented out for meetings and special events.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Montpelier is an exceptionally fine example of a high-style, five-part composition Georgian plantation house. The symmetrically balanced brick building has hyphenated wings with polygonal bays at the garden front reflecting the Palladian influence on later Georgian architecture prevalent among the wealthier classes during the late-18th century. Also, details such as the more elaborate doorway frontispiece with semi-circular fanlight and six-over-six-light-sash windows are features of the later Georgian, Adamesque style. Its elaborate interior detailing is without equal in Prince George's County.

2. Condition of the fabric: Montpelier is in excellent, well maintained condition. During the 1983-84 restoration, architectural historian William Seale served as a consultant for the interior of the house, recommending ca. 1830 interior decor (due to the extensive inventory of household furnishings in Nicholas Snowden's 1831 estate). Thus, the stairhall and front parlor rooms have been given period paint, paper, furnishing, etc.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Montpelier is a large, square brick structure, 46' wide and 40' feet, with front and rear elevations five bays across (three bay pavilion, front and rear). It sits two-and-a-half stories on a high basement. The building is two bays with one-story, hyphenate wings. The wings, 19' wide and 38' deep with polygonal bays at the garden front, are built at right angles to the 17' by 14' connecting hyphens, giving Montpelier a total length of 118'. The roof of the main block is hipped with a pediment atop the pavilions to the

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center of the front and rear elevations. The hyphens have gable roofs and the wings, hipped.

2. Foundations: The foundations are of brick laid in English bond. There is rubble stone at the foundations of wings.

3. Walls: The walls of the main block are brick laid in a Flemish bond. There is a central pavilion front, three bays wide, front and rear. There is a molded brick water table, two bricks high, above the high basement; and an all-header belt course, four bricks high, between the first and second stories. The hyphenated wings are also brick, laid in Flemish bond with English bond foundations, except for the rear and part of the side elevation of the north wing which is in English bond. The wings also have molded brick water tables.

4. Structural system, framing: Montpelier is of load-bearing masonry construction. The attic reveals the large, kingpost trusses which supports the roof system, with heavy hewn beams and pegged rafters. On many of the mortise and tenon joints and other joints of the structural system the roman numeral markings used to match the various members together are still visible.

5. Porches, stoops, terraces: There is a stoop at the carriage front (west) entry. It is a stone stoop with five steps (bottom step wider with rounded edges) with iron handrails. An undated historic view shows the garden (east) front with a Colonial Revival porch running the length of the facade, a later addition that was removed prior to the 1936 HABS photography. At the garden front are stone steps similar to the rear, without the handrails. There is a small, brick porch with arcaded walls at the entry into the caretakers wing. At the side of the north wing is a brick terrace with a low brick wall.

6. Chimneys: The main block has two square, symmetrically balanced interior brick chimneys with corbelled brick caps above a belt course. Each serves four interior fireplaces, two up and two down. There is an exterior brick chimney, flush with the wall, at the center of the rear or carriage front of both wings.

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7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The entrance doorways, garden front and carriage rear, are almost identical, but the garden front has a semi-circular fanlight in a Chinese tracery pattern, set in the pediment, broken at the bottom to accommodate it. The doorway is recessed with panelled reveals to match the door (four panels alternating small and large). The surround is a plain band with an inner bead, with fluted pilasters to either side. Above the doorway is a frieze in a triglyph and metope pattern, above which is a pediment. The doors are wooden, eight-panel doors to match the reveals. The doorways in the hyphens have the same plain band surrounds with inner bead and six-panel doors.

b. Windows: The typical window of the main block is a large, six-over-six-light-sash window, with the first-story windows being slightly longer than those of the second-story. The windows have wooden architrave surrounds consisting of a large inner bead followed by a wide band and, to the outside edge, a torus molding with a narrow fillet to either side. There are wooden sills and flat arched brick lintels. The rectangular basement windows are covered with louvers. The hyphens and wings have small, narrower, four-over-four-light-sash windows with the same surrounds. There are louvered shutters (some plain shutter hardware exists on the second-floor, carriage front pavilion bays).

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The main block has a steeply pitched, hipped roof with central pediments, front and rear. It was originally covered with wood shingles, now covered with slate. The roof of the hyphens are gabled and the wings are hipped.

b. Cornice, eaves: The cornice is ornamented with modillions and dentils, which is repeated in the front and rear pediments.

c. Dormers: There is a dormer in the polygonal front of both wings. They are hip-roofed dormers with four-over-four-light-sash windows.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: Montpelier has a somewhat asymmetrical Georgian plan created by a center hall that widens in an L-shape to the rear to accommodate the stairway (on both the first and second stories). Thus, the southwest rear room is significantly smaller. The plan is otherwise balanced. From the center hall, which is divided by a pilastered, squared entryway, there are equal sized front parlors to either side. All four rooms have fireplaces with panelled walls. In the northeast parlor or dining room there is a corner cupboard to the west of the fireplace and a doorway into a small passage joining the front and rear rooms and the wing to the east (with a closet to the inside). In the north parlor there is a low doorway to either side to the fireplace, a closet to the east and a doorway into a small joining passage as on the other side to the west (with chimney closet). To the rear half of the center hall, the stairway is to the west side with a small study to the south of it with a half-bath added behind it. To the other side of the hall is a chamber which has a hidden doorway in the paneled wall to a boxed winder stairway into the chamber above. The east hyphen has an exterior doorway to the center of both the front and rear. At the end of the hyphen are two doorways, one into the large east wing (later dining room), and the other, into a pantry and entry into the caretakers residence. The west hyphen is split-level, with a set of steps and an overlooking balustrade. This hyphen also has exterior doorways, front and rear. The wing is one large library room with a fireplace to the west wall and an exterior doorway onto the terrace to the north.

2. Second floor: The second floor follows the same pattern as the first (without the wings), with a bed chamber over each of the four first floor rooms. The area above the small passages that connect the hyphens with the main block are bathrooms on the second floor. Over the front entry area of the hall is a small chamber. There is a center hall, front

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to rear, which widens to the rear of the central, pilastered, elliptical archway. There is a balustraded overlook onto the stairway with a smaller, north-south hall into the northwest chamber. To the front of the arch on the north wall of the hall is a doorway into a boxed winder stair into the attic.

3. Attic: The attic is one large open space with high ceilings, lit by the rounded windows of the pediments which form dormer-like projects to the front and rear. The framing structure is exposed, with an interesting truss joint supporting the roof. On many of the mortise and tenon joints the markings to match the various members are still visible.

4. Basement: There is a basement under the main block with relieving arches supporting the fireplaces above. A small cellar vault for the secured storage of valuables was added under the library hyphen by the Long family.

2. Stairways: The main stairway is two-flight, open well, open string stairway, in elegant Federal style. The stair rises along the northerly wall to a long landing, and then turns 180 degrees and continues up to the second floor, cantilivering over the first floor hall. The molded handrail spirals at the bottom, supported by balusters, to create the newel post. The balusters are turned, three per step. There are ornamental, cut-out brackets along the open string. Along the wall of the stairway is panelled wainscoting with a false handrail along the top. There is also a panelled spandrel wall along the outside.

The stairway from the second floor into the attic is a boxed winder stair. There is another boxed winder stair, from the first-floor, southeast room to the chamber above. The doorways at both levels are concealed in the panelled walls. There is a short, Colonial Revival stairway in the west split-level hyphen. It has ornate turned balusters in three different spiral patterns. The handrail spirals to form a newel as with the main stairway.

3. Flooring: The center hall has been covered with reproduction oil cloth in a pattern of squares turned on

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end (diamond pattern) with small squares in the corners, all marblized. In the two front parlors is reproduction, floral patterned wall-to-wall carpeting. Elsewhere, is old, wide-board, wooden flooring.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: There is heavy molded chair rail in all the rooms on the first floor. The second-floor rooms also have a chair rail but it is simpler, consisting of board, beaded on the edges with a nosing along the top. The fireplace walls in the two back rooms of the first-floor and southwest second-floor room are panelled. On the first floor, the panelling is in three tiers, two over the mantel. On the second-floor, there are three tiers to the sides, and two tiers above and flanking the fireplace.

There are elaborate cornices throughout the house. The most elaborate is that which appears in the center hall on the first story and in the stair hall (rear half) of the second floor, ornamented with acanthus leaf-and-tongue molding and a wide frieze with garland wreaths encircling alternation patterns of fruit baskets with crossing sickle and rake. The southeast, dining room also has an extremely ornate cornice including a quilloche and crenelated pattern moldings, as well as egg-and-dart and acanthus leaf-and-tongue moldings. The cornice in the other first-floor rooms is heavy molded with a crenelated molding. The second-floor cornice is similar but without the crenelation. Reproduction wallpaper has been added in the northeast parlor and scalloped borders in the center hall over the chair rail.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The doorways in the first-floor, center hall and front rooms of the main block is a stepped, shouldered architrave. In the south front (dining) room it has an added narrow cyma-recta molding with an acanthus leaf-and-tongue pattern. All the other doorways have a stepped architrave without the shouldering. In the first floor of the center hall a large doorway is formed mid-hall by pilasters supporting an entablature with an elaborate. The pilasters are fluted and rest below the chair rail. In the second-floor center hall is an elliptical archway, supported by fluted pilasters. The arch, with a cyma-reversa outer

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edge, has a keystone. Also, joining the hyphen with the library wing is a shallow arch with reeding along the inside and molding with three-quarter-circle pattern long the outside edges. There are two secret doorways, hidden in the panelled walls of the southwest rooms, up and down. They provide access to a boxed stairway which joins these two rooms.

b. Windows: The window surrounds match that found in the doorways in each room.

6. Decorative features and trim: Montpelier contains numerous decorative moldings and trim. In addition to the cornice and fancier door and window trim, the northeast dining room contains the most elaborate mantelpiece and a corner china cabinet. The fireplace opening is surrounded by elaborately carved moldings forming a shouldered architrave with rosettes in the squares formed by the shoulder at either side. The surrounding molding includes egg-and-tongue and an intricate guilloche pattern molding. Above this is an unornamented frieze. Under the mantel shelf, the moldings include acanthus leaf-and-tongue and crenelated patterns. There is marble around the opening of the fireplace. In the northwest corner of the dining room is a round-arch china cabinet with glass doors with chinese tracery. The cabinet is flanked by fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals, resting on a pedestal separated by the intersecting chair rail. Above is a band topped with a cyma-reversa molding and a large echinus molding which joins the pilasters with the cornice. There are squared panel doors in the bottom of the cabinet. Inside, the shelves are scalloped.

The mantel in the northwest parlor is in a simpler federal style. A crown molding surrounds the opening, flanked by panelled pilasters. The frieze has panelled end blocks and center tablet, without ornament. The molded mantel shelf has crenelated molding beneath it. The other two fireplaces on the first-floor of the main block, the rear rooms, and in the southeast second-floor chamber, have panelled walls with a simple architrave trim surrounding the fireplace openings. The fireplace in the northeast second-floor room has a large, broken pediment over the fireplace opening. On the second floor, northeast and southeast chambers are cast-iron

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firebacks which read, "T S A 1783," presumably from the Snowden Iron Works. In the library, remodelled ca. 1930, built in bookcases with dentilling molding were added. They rise about 1/3 up the wall and are located between the windows. Under the windows is panelled wainscoting.

7. Hardware: The doors still have box locks and delicate, old brass knobs.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Montpelier sits on a high knoll, facing north-northeast. This northerly front looks out over the terraced front lawn and formal boxwood gardens. At the rear or carriage front to the south is a circular drive, approached from the northeast, circling around past the garden front of the house. The formally maintained area surrounding the house and including the gardens and outbuildings comprises about six acres. The larger Montpelier parcel totals about seventy-five acres.

2. Historic landscape design: The north front of Montpelier faces a formal Georgian boxwood garden on three levels of terraces, which has been largely maintained over the years. The boxwood had overgrown to such an extent that M-NCPPC had to remove it from the upper terrace and part of the middle terrace. HABS photographs taken in 1936 and a garden plan of Montpelier appearing in Great Georgian Houses of America show the gardens as restored by the Longs in the 1930s. The upper and middle terrace once had a boxwood-lined path to the lower garden, now gone. The middle terrace had a double-ring pattern of boxwood to the center of each side of the path. The lower garden was and still is surrounded by a wall of boxwood and miscellaneous plantings, with a circular flower bed, which the path surrounds, to the center. The path terminates at the drive or "old road" where there is now a gate. Directly south-southwest of the house, from the rear yard to the end of the upper terrace is "the lawn." On axis with the middle terrace, running east-west, the "boxwood allee to (the) old summer house," is still intact (the National Register nomination stated that this section is believed to be over 200 years old). The entrance drive the 1930s was to the northwest side of the house (still partially visible but unused).

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The "old road" is now being used.

3. Outbuildings: The only historic outbuilding remaining is a rare, 18th-century hexagonal garden or summer house (HABS No. MD-140-A), constructed in 1796. Few such examples of garden architecture survive. It is a small frame structure with wide, beaded-board siding. There is a window at each side and a doorway facing the boxwood allee. The windows and doorway have round-arched tops with chinese tracery to match that of the fanlight over the main entry of the house. Atop the structure sits a high, hexagonal lantern, capped with a finial. The interior has been finished with plaster, with architrave molding surrounding the windows. The other outbuildings were constructed in the early 20th century, including a garage (also known as the carriage house) and a building now used as an office.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: No original drawings are known to exist. An early 20th-century, front elevation (Arthur Norgard, del.), first-floor plan and a combination garden and second-floor plan (Hugh A. Simpson, del.) appear in Great Georgian Houses of America.

B. Early Views: Jack E. Boucher is the fourth HABS photographer to visit Montpelier, but the only one since 1937. In May of 1936 John O. Brostrup took sixteen views, both exterior and interior views of the main house, and views of the garden house, servant's wing and coach house. Next to photograph Montpelier from HABS was E.H. Pickering, who took a single perspective view of the northerly front in September of 1936. Finally, Frederick D. Nichols took four views in 1937, one of the front and rear elevations, a doorway detail and one of the garden house. Also in the HABS collection is an undated historic view showing the garden facade with a Colonial Revival porch running the length of the facade.

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Montpelier was undertaken as part of a cooperative project between the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert J. Kapsch, chief, and the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission on behalf of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to document select sites throughout the county. A memorandum of agreement was signed in August 1988 and the project, to span one year, began in January 1989. The selection of sites was made by Gail Rothrock, director and Susan G. Pearl, research historian, of the HPC. They also provided access to their research and information on file with the HPC, as well as their extensive knowledge of county history. The large-format photography was undertaken by HABS photographer, Jack E. Boucher. The historical report was prepared by HABS historian Catherine C. Lavoie who accompanied the photographer into the field for on-site investigation and architectural description.